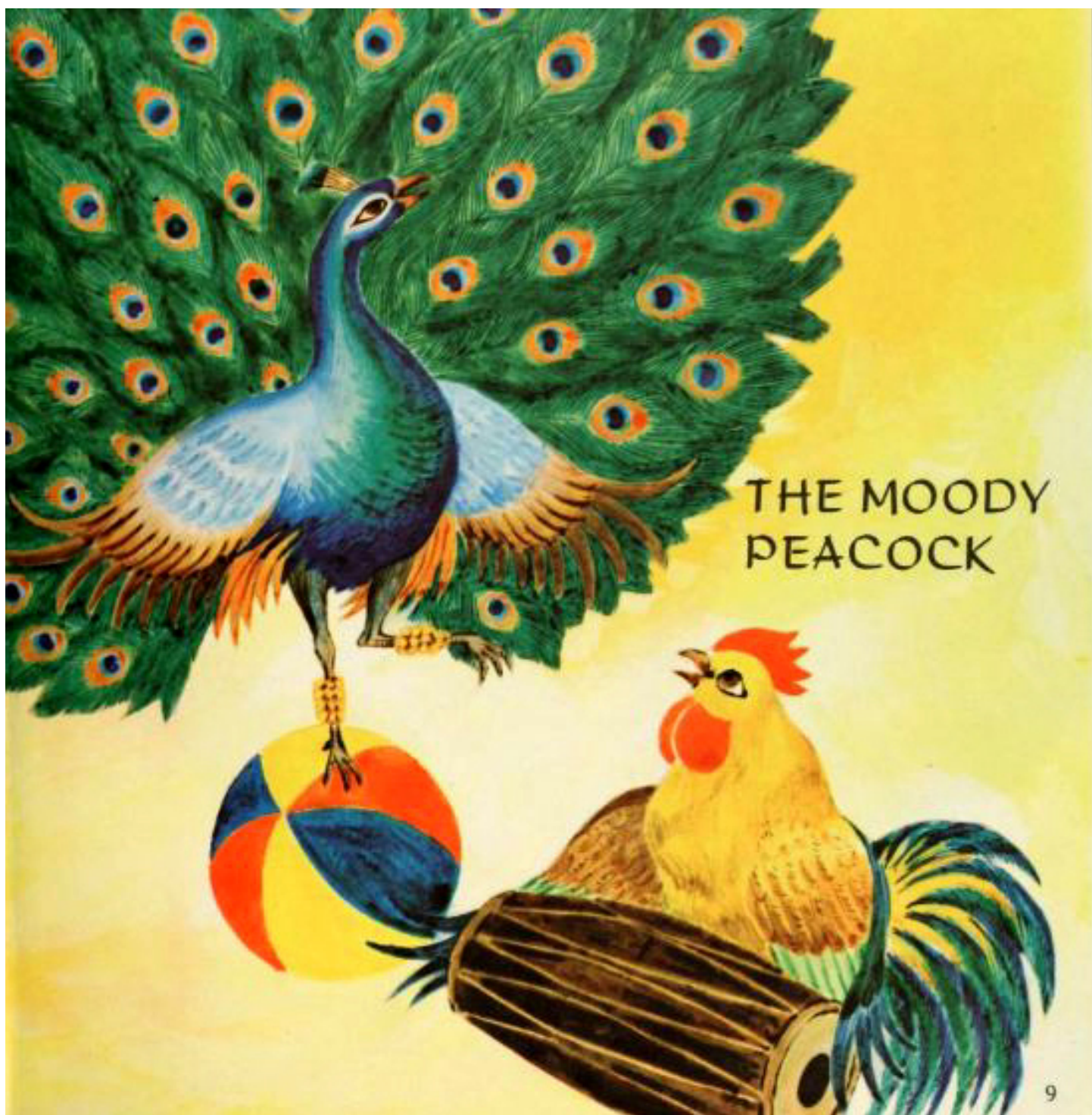




THE MOODY
PEACOCK



Long ago, in the days when such things happened, a cock and a peacock bought a piece of land together. They agreed to work on it and to share everything that grew on it.

The cock awoke bright and early in the morning. He called out to the peacock: "Let's hurry, let's hurry! We have to plough our land today."

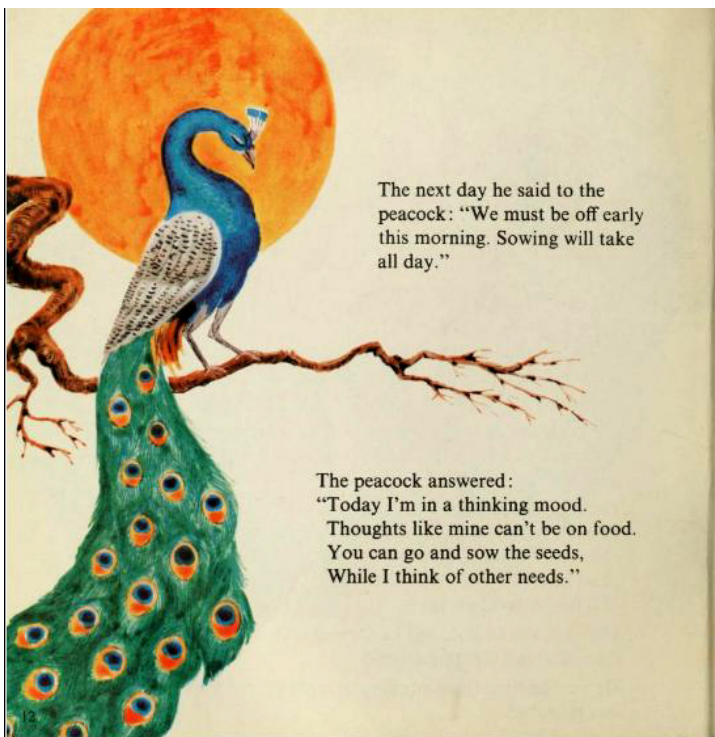
The peacock thought awhile and replied:
"Today I'm in a dancing mood.

My ankle bells are jingling.

Just go ahead and start to plough,
I'll follow in a twinkling."

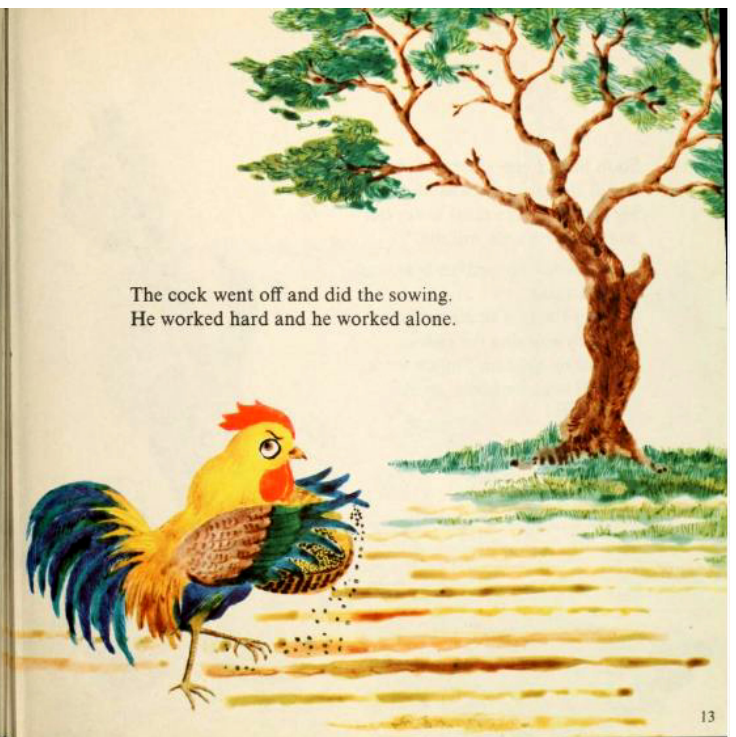
The cock was puzzled but he hurried off leaving his friend thumping and jumping around.

He worked hard from morning to night till every inch of land was ploughed.



The next day he said to the peacock: "We must be off early this morning. Sowing will take all day."

The peacock answered:
"Today I'm in a thinking mood.
Thoughts like mine can't be on food.
You can go and sow the seeds,
While I think of other needs."



The cock went off and did the sowing.
He worked hard and he worked alone.

Soon little green wheat plants came out of the ground. Now he said to his partner: "We must water our land or our plants will die."

The peacock opened his beak and began to sing:

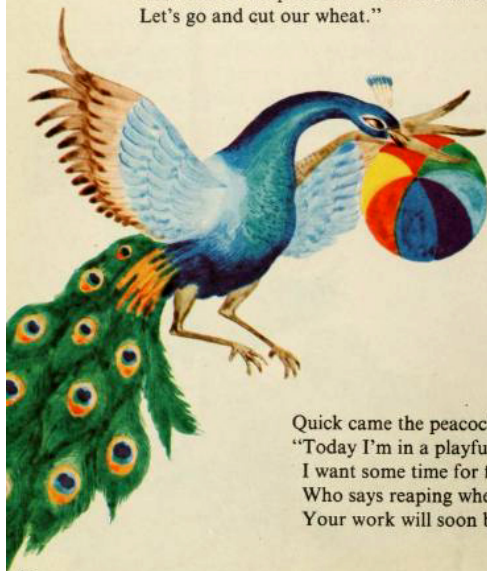
"Today I'm in a singing mood,
I'll stay and sing for rain.
Watering land isn't much work,
You'll soon be home again."



The peacock sang so badly that the cock was happy to go off by himself to water the land.



As the days passed the wheat grew tall. It turned a beautiful golden colour and was ready for cutting. The cock said to the peacock: "Now it's time for reaping. Let's go and cut our wheat."

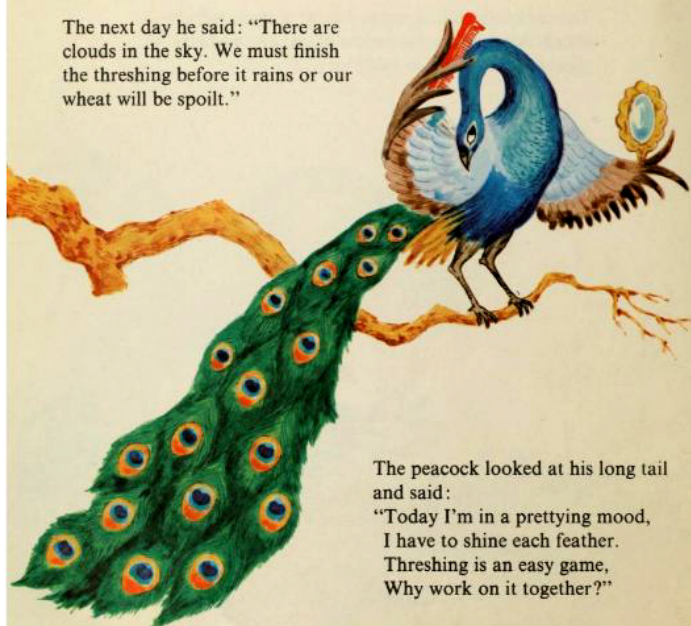


Quick came the peacock's answer:
"Today I'm in a playful mood,
I want some time for fun.
Who says reaping wheat is hard?
Your work will soon be done."

The cock left, feeling sad and disappointed with his friend. All day long he cut the wheat and by nightfall he had it all tied up in bundles.



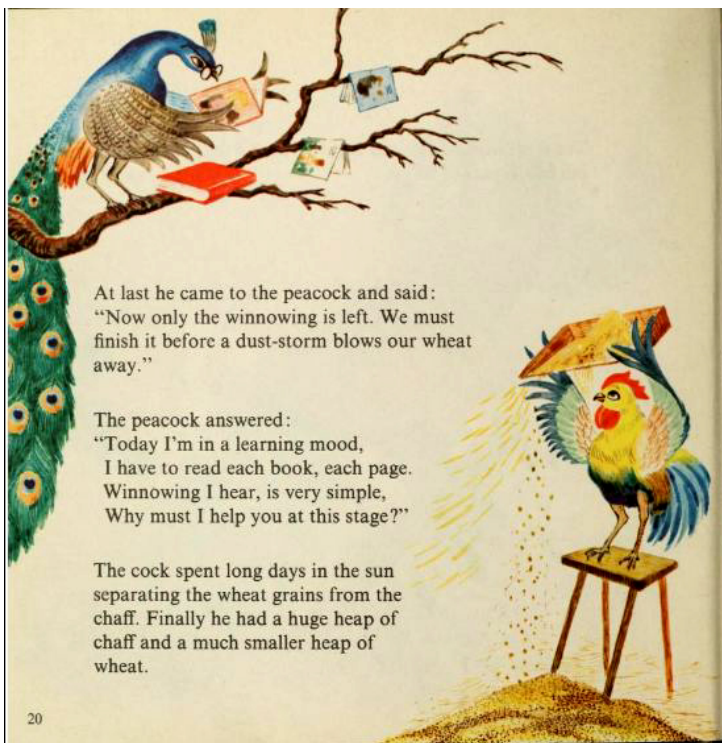
The next day he said: "There are clouds in the sky. We must finish the threshing before it rains or our wheat will be spoilt."



The peacock looked at his long tail and said:
"Today I'm in a prettying mood,
I have to shine each feather.
Threshing is an easy game,
Why work on it together?"

The cock worked day and night threshing the grains out of the ears of wheat.

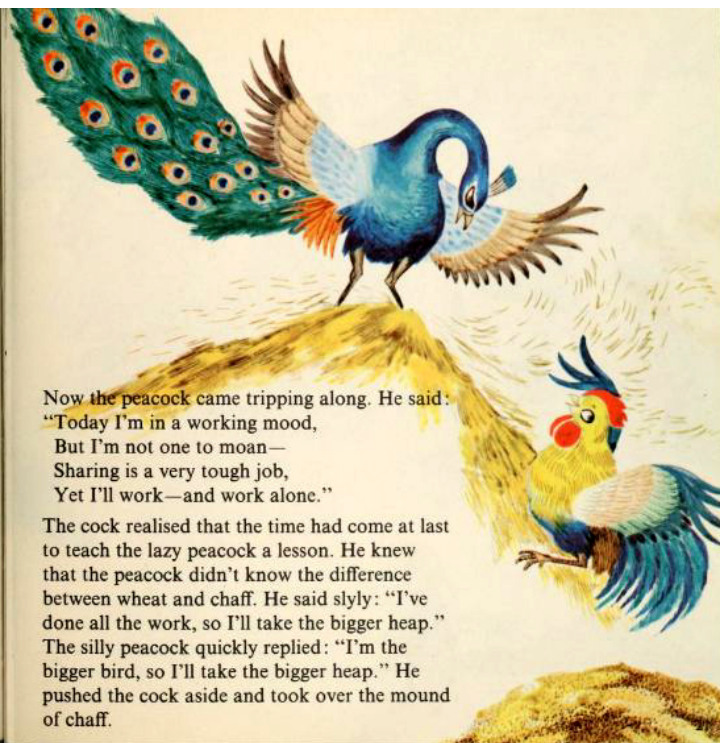




At last he came to the peacock and said:
"Now only the winnowing is left. We must
finish it before a dust-storm blows our wheat
away."

The peacock answered:
"Today I'm in a learning mood,
I have to read each book, each page.
Winnowing I hear, is very simple,
Why must I help you at this stage?"

The cock spent long days in the sun
separating the wheat grains from the
chaff. Finally he had a huge heap of
chaff and a much smaller heap of
wheat.



Now the peacock came tripping along. He said:
"Today I'm in a working mood,
But I'm not one to moan—
Sharing is a very tough job,
Yet I'll work—and work alone."

The cock realised that the time had come at last
to teach the lazy peacock a lesson. He knew
that the peacock didn't know the difference
between wheat and chaff. He said slyly: "I've
done all the work, so I'll take the bigger heap."
The silly peacock quickly replied: "I'm the
bigger bird, so I'll take the bigger heap." He
pushed the cock aside and took over the mound
of chaff.

